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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Norfolk, Virginia – Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Craig Lewis Runyon, age 53, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, pled guilty yesterday in U.S. District Court in Norfolk, Virginia, to a two-count criminal information charging him with using unauthorized access devices and with mail fraud. Runyon, a self-employed Virginia Beach businessman, faces a maximum prison term of ten years and a \$250,000 fine on count one and a maximum prison term of five years and a \$250,000 fine on count two. Runyon is scheduled to be sentenced on July 10, 2003 by United States District Judge Rebecca Beach Smith.

The criminal charges stem from Runyon's attempt to defraud two female acquaintances and two credit card issuers. With respect to count one, Runyon used the biographical and identity information (name, date of birth, and social security number) of the first female acquaintance to apply for two credit cards. Runyon applied over the Internet for these credit cards in his acquaintance's name, but supplied his own address as the mailing address. Upon approval of the credit card applications, Runyon then obtained cards for himself as an additional authorized user and proceeded to make purchases and to obtain cash advances against the American Express and Juniper Bank credit card accounts. During the period August 2000 through February 2002 Runyon fraudulently used these credit card access devices to obtain approximately \$47,154.42 in cash and merchandise.

With respect to the mail fraud charge in count two of the criminal information, Runyon falsely

promised another female acquaintance to pool \$50,000 she sought to invest with Runyon's own alleged investments in offshore bank accounts and real estate investment trusts. Rather than investing the \$50,000 as promised, Runyon stole the monies for his own use and spent the monies on, among other things, gambling and buying a used Cadillac Seville. To lull this investor into a false sense of security, Runyon told her that her investment was rapidly appreciating and made several alleged "interest" payments to her. When the investment came to term and the investor sought repayment, however, Runyon falsely told her that they both had been victimized by an international banker in Gibraltar who had swindled their money.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Robert J. Krask is prosecuting the case.